AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) An elongated device for medical procedures comprising a superelastic member having a first section with a first set of properties and an adjacent second section having a second set of properties which have been altered from the first set of properties ~~and further alloyed~~ by alloying the second section with an easily diffusable element, wherein the superelastic member comprises a nickel-titanium alloy.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the easily diffusable element is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, hydrogen, carbon and nitrogen.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 10, wherein the easily diffusable element is hydrogen.

21. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 10, wherein the easily diffusable element is oxygen.

22. (Previously Presented) The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the altered properties comprise reduced superelasticity.

23. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim 7, wherein the second section of the superelastic member ~~has~~ having the altered properties comprises a distal end of the superelastic member ~~comprising at least one altered property~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim 23, wherein the ~~section comprising at least one altered property~~ distal end is at least about 3 cm in length.

25. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim 23, wherein the ~~at least one~~ altered ~~property comprises~~ properties comprise reduced superelasticity.

26. (Currently Amended) The elongated device of claim 25, wherein the ~~section comprising at least one altered property~~ distal end is at least about 3 cm in length.